



Trinity Christian Academy- Hollister, Missouri

Policy Response Document: Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices

In Response to Missouri Senate Bill 68

Effective School Year: 2025–2026

Policy Overview

Trinity Christian Academy acknowledges the statewide mandate established by Missouri Senate Bill 68, which restricts student use of personal electronic devices in K–12 public and charter schools. While our school operates independently, we value alignment with best practices that promote student learning, safety, and well-being. This document outlines our policy and response.

Restricted Devices

- **Cell Phones**
Students may not use or display cell phones at any time during the school day. Phones must remain off or in silent mode and will be turned into school office at the beginning of the day.
 - **Smartwatches**
Smartwatches with messaging, calling, or gaming capabilities are considered electronic devices and must not be used during school hours.
 - **Headphones & Wireless Earbuds**
Use of headphones and wireless earbuds is prohibited during the school day, including during transitions and lunch, unless authorized for educational purposes.
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Time Restrictions

- **All Day Coverage**

The restriction applies during the **entire school day**, including:

- Classroom instructional time
 - Chapel services and assemblies
 - Recess and transitions
 - Meal periods (breakfast, snack, lunch)
 - Before/after school hours on campus (unless under direct staff supervision)
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Approved Exceptions

- **Medical Accommodations**

Use of devices for health monitoring or medical alerts as stated in an IEP, 504 Plan, or medical health care plan will be honored.

- **Emergencies**

Students may access devices in the event of a verified emergency, as determined by school administration.

- **Educational Use**

Teachers or staff may permit device use for structured academic purposes (e.g., research, recording a class project, language apps).

Disciplinary Procedures

Violations of the device policy will be handled in alignment with our student discipline philosophy.

- **First Offense:** Verbal warning and device confiscation until the end of the school day.
- **Second Offense:** Parent contact and device held in the office for parent retrieval.
- **Repeat Offenses:** Meeting with administration, loss of device privileges, and further disciplinary action if needed.

Public Access and Communication

- This policy will be posted on the **Trinity Christian Academy website** under the Parent Resources tab.
- Policy reminders will be communicated to parents and students through:
 - Orientation materials
 - Student handbook
 - Classroom newsletters

Rationale and Alignment

- **Reducing Distractions**
Supports a learning-focused environment by minimizing off-task behavior and digital disruptions.
- **Protecting Student Well-being**
Encourages interpersonal connection, reduces social anxiety from online engagement, and promotes healthier habits.
- **Consistency with Best Practices**
Aligns with state-level standards and national educational trends prioritizing academic and emotional growth.

Implementation Plan

- **Summer 2025:** Staff training and policy review
- **August 2025:** Family communication and back-to-school reminders
- **Ongoing:** Monitoring compliance and adjusting as needed based on classroom observations and feedback